

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method of presenting to a user a visual representation of a frame resident at a central office of a telecommunications system, the method comprising:

5       accessing a database including data as to a current condition of the frame;

      displaying, based on the accessed data, a graphical representation of the frame, the graphical representation including a visual indication of the current condition of the frame; and

      allowing a user to interface with the graphical representation to effect a mapping between the frame and telecommunications lines leading to and from the frame.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the displaying step displays the graphical representation of the frame in response to the user specifying a particular frame from a particular central office in the telecommunications system.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the frame is made up of constituent blocks and the displaying step may display a

particular block from a specified frame in response to the user's entry of coordinates for the block.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the allowing step further allows the user to modify attributes of the selected frame.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the graphical representation of the frame displayed at the displaying step includes a first Web page showing a frame of a selected central office laid out as a matrix of constituent blocks.

10 6. A method according to claim 5, wherein the graphical representation of the frame displayed at the displaying step includes a second Web page showing available pins on any block in the matrix, and allows the user to search for a block having a number of available pins entered by the user.

15 7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the allowing step allows the user to assign a jumper from a port on a switching card to an available pin and/or assign a jumper from an available pin to an outside plant feeder.

8. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of allowing the user to add a new frame at a selected central office of the telecommunications system.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein the user can specify 5 a number of modules, shelves, and blocks per shelf for an added new frame.

10. Computer code for a host computer on a network, the host computer being operable to communicate with a client computer on the network and having access to a database of information 10 relating to the condition of frames located at telecommunications system central offices, the code comprising:

code for processing requests from the client computer for information relating to one or more frames;

15 code for initiating database interface code, the database interface code retrieving the requested data from the database and formatting a graphical representation of a current condition of the one or more frames in the request; and

20 code for communicating the formatted graphical representation of the one or more frames to the client computer and for allowing a user of the client computer to interface with

the graphical representation to effect a mapping between the frame and telecommunications lines leading to and from the frame.

11. Computer code according to claim 10, wherein the code further comprises the database interface code, and the database 5 interface code comprises a common gateway interface (CGI) application.

12. Computer code according to claim 10, wherein the code further comprises the database interface code, and the database interface code comprises a Java servlet.

10 13. Computer code according to claim 10, wherein the graphical representation of the frame is generated in response to the user specifying a particular frame from a particular central office in the telecommunications system.

14. Computer code according to claim 13, wherein the frame is 15 made up of constituent blocks and the graphical representation of the frame may show a particular block from a specified frame in response to the user's entry of coordinates for the block.

15. Computer code according to claim 10, wherein the code for 20 communicating further allows the user to modify attributes of the selected frame.

16. Computer code according to claim 10, wherein the graphical representation of the frame includes a first Web page showing a frame of a selected central office laid out as a matrix of constituent blocks.

5 17. Computer code according to claim 16, wherein the graphical representation of the frame includes a second Web page showing available pins on any block in the matrix, and allowing the user to search for a block having a number of available pins entered by the user.

10 18. Computer code according to claim 17, wherein the code for communicating allows the user to assign a jumper from a port on a switching card to an available pin and/or assign a jumper from an available pin to an outside plant feeder.

15 19. Computer code according to claim 10, further comprising code for allowing the user to add a new frame at a selected central office of the telecommunications system.

20. Computer code according to claim 19, wherein the user can specify a number of modules, shelves, and blocks per shelf for an added new frame.

20 21. A server computer on a network, the server computer having access to a database of information relating to the condition of

frames located at telecommunications central offices, the server computer being operable to:

communicate with a client computer on the network;

process requests from the client computer for information

5 relating to one or more frames;

initiate database interface code, the database interface code retrieving the requested data from the database and format a graphical representation of a current condition of the one or more frames in the request; and

10 communicate the formatted graphical representation of the one or more frames to the client computer and allow a user of the client computer to interface with the graphical representation to effect a mapping between the frame and telecommunications lines leading to and from the frame.

15 22. A server according to claim 21, wherein the database interface code comprises a common gateway interface (CGI) application.

23. A server according to claim 21, wherein the database interface code comprises a Java servlet.

24. A server according to claim 21, wherein the graphical representation of the frame is generated in response to the user specifying a particular frame from a particular central office in the telecommunications system.

5 25. A server according to claim 24, wherein the frame is made up of constituent blocks and the graphical representation of the frame shows a particular block from a specified frame in response to the user's entry of coordinates for the block.

10 26. A server according to claim 21, wherein the server is further operable to allow the user to modify attributes of the selected frame.

15 27. A server according to claim 21, wherein the graphical representation of the frame includes a first Web page showing a frame of a selected central office laid out as a matrix of constituent blocks.

20 28. A server according to claim 27, wherein the graphical representation of the frame includes a second Web page showing available pins on any block in the matrix, and allowing the user to search for a block having a number of available pins entered by the user.

29. A server according to claim 28, wherein the server is operable to allow the user to assign a jumper from a port on a switching card to an available pin and/or assign a jumper from an available pin to an outside plant feeder.

5 30. A server according to claim 21, the server further being operable to allow the user to add a new frame at a selected central office of the telecommunications system.

10 31. A server according to claim 30, wherein the user can specify a number of modules, shelves, and blocks per shelf for an added new frame.

32. Computer code running on a client computer on a network, the code comprising:

15 code for communicating with a server on the network, the server having access to a database of information relating to the condition of frames located at telecommunications central offices;

20 code for sending requests to the server for information relating to one or more frames, the requests causing the server to initiate execution of database interface code, the database interface code retrieving the requested data from the database

and formatting a graphical representation of a current condition of the one or more frames in the request;

code for receiving the formatted graphical representation of the one or more frames from the server, the received graphical representation allowing a user of the client computer to interface with the graphical representation to effect a mapping between the frame and telecommunications lines leading to and from the frame.

33. Computer code according to claim 32, wherein the graphical representation of the frame includes a first Web page showing a frame of a selected central office laid out as a matrix of constituent blocks.

34. Computer code according to claim 33, wherein the graphical representation of the frame includes a second Web page showing available pins on any block in the matrix, and allowing the user to search for a block having a number of available pins entered by the user.

35. Computer code according to claim 34, wherein the received graphical representation allows the user to assign a jumper from a port on a switching card to an available pin and/or assign a jumper from an available pin to an outside plant feeder.

36. Computer code according to claim 32, wherein the received graphical representation allows the user to add a new frame at a selected central office of the telecommunications system.

37. Computer code according to claim 36, wherein the user can 5 specify a number of modules, shelves, and blocks per shelf for an added new frame.

38. An apparatus for presenting to a user a visual representation of a frame resident at a central office of a telecommunications system, the apparatus comprising:

10 means for accessing a database including data as to a current condition of the frame;

means for displaying, based on the accessed data, a graphical representation of the frame, the graphical representation including a visual indication of the current 15 condition of the frame; and

means for allowing a user to interface with the graphical representation to effect a mapping between the frame and telecommunications lines leading to and from the frame.

39. An apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the displaying step displays the graphical representation of the frame in response to the user specifying a particular frame from a particular central office in the telecommunications system.

5 40. An apparatus according to claim 39, wherein the frame is made up of constituent blocks and the means for displaying may display a particular block from a specified frame in response to the user's entry of coordinates for the block.

10 41. An apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the means for allowing is further operable to allow the user to modify attributes of the selected frame.

42. An apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the graphical representation of the frame displayed by the means for displaying includes a first Web page showing a frame of a selected central 15 office laid out as a matrix of constituent blocks.

43. An apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the graphical representation of the frame displayed by the means for displaying includes a second Web page showing available pins on any block in the matrix, and allows the user to search for a block having a 20 number of available pins entered by the user.

44. An apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the means for allowing allows the user to assign a jumper from a port on a switching card to an available pin and/or assign a jumper from an available pin to an outside plant feeder.

5 45. An apparatus according to claim 38, further comprising means for allowing the user to add a new frame at a selected central office of the telecommunications system.

46. An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the user can specify a number of modules, shelves, and blocks per shelf for an 10 added new frame.

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